with effect from 1.4.2002. All States/UTs (except Delhi and Chandigarh) are covered. The major objective of the scheme is provision of wage employment in all rural areas and thereby provide food security and improve nutritional levels as well as creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructure development in rural areas. For the scheme, an amount of Rs. 5040 crore has been allocated for the year 2002-03.

Cultivation of Barren-land

†165. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of vast areas of barran land in the country which could be made cultivable;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any time-bound steps to make such area of land cultivable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) to (d)The process of soil erosion and land degradation leading to degraded lands, including barren lands, occurs owing to faulty cultivation practices, under utilization of land resources, deterioration due to lack of appropriate soil and water management and natural and environmental causes.

As per the Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000 (brought out by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad employing Satellite Remote Sensing Technologies), the total extent of Wastelands/Degraded lands in the country is 63.85 million hectare, out of which the extent of barren rocky/stony waste/sheet rock area is 6.45 million hectare.The State-wise details are placed at Annexure. [See Appendix 198 Annexdure No. 1].

While no specific programme is currently under implementation to bring barren land under cultivation, the main Programmes and Schemes of the Central Government for the treatment of wastelands and degraded

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

lands have components to develop/reclaim such lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use, the detials of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Projects Implemented by Various Central Ministries/Departments

1. Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources)

   (i) Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP).

   (ii) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).

   (iii) Desert Development Programme (DDP).

   (iv) Technology Development, Extension and Training (TDET) Scheme.

2. Ministry of Agriculture

   (i) Soil conservation for enhancing the productivity of degraded lands in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVPs) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

   (ii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS).

   (iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA).

   (iv) Watershed Development Projects for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) in North Eastern States.

3. Ministry of Water Resources

   (i) Reclamation of Waterlogged Areas under Command Area Development Programme (CADP).

4. Ministry of Environment and Forests

   (i) National Afforestation Programme (NAP).

5. Planning Commission

   (i) Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP) (ii) Hili Area Development Programme (HADP)